Academic Collaborative to Support Medical Education in Liberia (ACSMEL)

Background: The country of Liberia, located ocean front in tropical West Africa, suffered through a disastrous civil war from 1989 – 2003, which destroyed much of the country's medical infrastructure, medical workforce and medical training programs. The war has also taken its toll on the children of Liberia. Nearly 45% of the population is <15 years of age. The Neonatal and under 5 mortality rate is among the top 5 highest in the world. Malaria and measles are among the leading causes of death and there are only 2 pediatricians in Liberia, with the plan to implement of pediatric residency training program.

Program: ACSMEL seeks to achieve/provide the following service and programs 1) to provide mentorship and teaching during direct clinical care 2) To build local capacity through participating in the development of Liberian Graduate Medical Education Programs (MGE) 3) Implement facilitate sustained local need driven projects (ex chronic illness clinic, teen and tot clinic, emergency protocols, clinical practice guidelines). 4.) Measure outcomes related to medical education, residency training and projects. Current work is done at the tertiary care and the medical school affiliated teaching institution John F. Kennedy Hospital. We have recently added care coverage at a second ministry of health-supported site Redemption Hospital.

Resident Rotations: (PL2/3): 4 or more weeks. This rotation focuses on neonatal and child health in a resource limited tertiary care setting. While rotating at JFK or Redemption hospitals you will have the opportunity to work side by side with Liberian medical students, interns and residents in a variety of settings including the pediatric ward, NICU/nursery, emergency room and clinic. You will have the opportunity to learn tropical medicine and vaccine preventable diseases from our Liberian colleagues (both faculty and interns) while teaching and modeling the practice of US medicine for them. As this is a collaborative project you will also be rotating with other US residents from our partner institutions. You are asked to lead 2-4 teaching seminars from a collection of pre-prepared lectures for the medical students and interns as well as give lectures of your own choosing. Opportunities to participate in the collaborative projects including chronic illness clinic, neonatal resuscitation and malnutrition also exist. *All U.S. residents are supervised by a U.S. faculty member also rotating at these two locations as well as 2 local pediatricians on faculty at the medical school.

Expenses: Accommodations are provided in a dormitory on the campus at JFK hospital free of charge to visiting residents. For those working at Redemption housing in a local apartment and transportation to the hospital is provided. The dormitory and Apartment are air conditioned with kitchen, laundry, Internet access. Breakfast and lunch are served everyday. Airport pick-up and drop off is provided by JFK or Redemption hospital. You are responsible for your airfare which generally runs $1350-$1800 round trip depending on the route you fly (direct from New York or through Europe). Other expenses would include the cost of cooking/eating dinner out and taxi transportation around Monrovia. There is no rotation fee.

Logistics: Residents interested in rotating in Liberia should plan in advance once you know your elective time. Dormitory space is shared amongst all universities and thus no more than 3-4 visiting residents can be accommodated at a time. Advance preparation is also required as vaccinations and VISA/Licensing takes up to 2 months prior to departure. Residents interested in more information or organizing a rotation should contact Michelle Niescierenko, MD through the Children's email system.